FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 DECEMBER 1984

Iraq-Iran Conflict

Iraqi military reinforcements have been deployed in the central battle sector over the past few days in anticipation of a new Iranian offensive, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Iraq's 4th Army Corps is now fully prepared to destroy any Iranian aggression, and is monitoring the Iranian forces' battle preparations, its commander declared in a statement carried in the 27 December Defense Ministry newspaper and cited by INA.

Iran

In an anonymous telephone call to AFP's Tehran bureau, a man claimed responsibility on behalf of the opposition People's Mujahedeen for the 26 December Tehran car bomb explosion in which "four" people were killed, AFP reported. However, this claim was denied by a Paris spokesman for the group, who hinted that the bomb might have been planted by the Iranian Government to tarnish the opposition's image, according to the agency.

Lebanon

Security Developments — President Amin al-Jumayyil left for Damascus to discuss Lebanese political and security developments with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Earlier, on 26 December, seven new conditions stipulated by the PSP prevented the Cabinet meeting from ratifying the security plan for the coastal and Al-Kharrub areas, so the Cabinet authorized the Military Council to deal with obstacles to the plan, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed. However, according to a subsequent report by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, an "official" PSP source denied reports about new PSP conditions for the coast road security plan. The source asserted that PSP leader Walid Junblatt gave "unequivocal" instructions to facilitate the plan's implementation, and said that the Phalangists and the government were trying to avoid the agreement even though the Military Council confirmed it at a 23 December meeting.

IDF Withdrawal — The Israeli prime minister has moved toward the defense minister's position in order to persuade the Likud leaders to agree to a phased IDF withdrawal, with the first stage set at the Al-Litani River, the second at the line between the international border and the Al-Litani, and the third at the international border, Jerusalem television revealed.

Fighting — For the third time in 10 days shells hit the Al-Awwali area near Israeli positions, the Voice of Lebanon radio reported, noting that firing at the coastal road and al-Kharrub villages was continuing.

Israel

Delegations from Israel, Egypt, and the United States will meet in Beersheba in 2 weeks to discuss MFO deployment in Tabah, Jerusalem radio reported.

In a separate development, IDF radio predicted that Israel will agree "in principle" to the U.S. request to set up a VOA relay station in Israel, adding that "in all probability" Israel will suggest establishing a committee to study a location for it, postponing the project for an "unlimited period" because the country's leaders fear the effect of such a move on the USSR's attitude toward Soviet Jews.

Afghanistan

Anticipating rebel attacks in connection with the fifth anniversary of Soviet intervention, Soviet and DRA forces have increased security measures in Kabul, AFP reported citing a Western diplomatic source. Last week rebel ambushes closed the highway between Kabul and the Soviet border for 4 days, according to the same source.

Pakistan

A government spokesman affirmed that elections will be held before 23 March 1985 as stated by President Ziaul Haq in August 1983, according to Karachi radio. Haq will announce whether the elections will be held on a party or nonparty basis, the spokesman added. Meanwhile, police released three opposition leaders who were placed under house arrest to prevent them from attending an antigovernment rally on 25 December, Delhi radio's English service revealed.

Maghreb

An official SDAR statement announced that 100 Moroccan soldiers were killed in a Polisario attack in the Mahbes area on 24 December and 37 others died in attacks on positions along the defensive wall from 14 to 24 December, Algiers radio reported.

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Dost Speaks at Ministry's Anniversary Celebration

LD261956 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] The personnel and staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a glorious session today in the Ministry's Institute of Diplomacy to mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the PDPA.

Shah Mohammad Dost, member of the PDPA and the DRA minister of foreign affairs, in his opening speech spoke about the main outline of DRA foreign policy. He pointed out that, after the victory of the April revolution, under the direction of the PDPA, the foreign policy of the country has been relieved of its dependency on reaction and imperialism; for the first time, Afghanistan has been able to follow a principled and independent foreign policy.

Shah Mohammad Dost added: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the basis of the PDPA's action program and on the basis of the DRA's basic principles, is trying very hard to put into action the scientific foreign policy of the party and the DRA Government in the field of international relations, based on the principles of the defense of peace, international solidarity with all peace-loving and progressive forces — in particular the socialist countries, led by the Soviet Union — peaceful coexistence, and active and positive nonalignment.

Shah Mohammad Dost added: Since the April revolution, the DRA's international relations have been developing increasingly, and the prestige and credit of the country in the international arena has been raised higher than before.

The deputy ministers and a number of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff then spoke about various aspects of foreign policy and preventing psychological warfare by imperialism, headed by the U.S. imperialism, against the DRA.

Transportation Minister Opens New Enterprise

LD261909 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The Kamaz-3 transportation enterprise was officially opened today and began operation on the occasion of 20th anniversary of the founding of the PDPA. The ceremony, which was held in the courtyard of this enterprise, was attended by Brigadier General Mohammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, some employees of the Ministry of Transportation, workers of the Ministry of Public Works and of the Kamaz-3 enterprise.

Sher Jan Mazduryar, minister of transportation, spoke first about the subject and said: Together with enterprises No 1 and 2, which are operating in Kabul, this transportation enterprise has at its disposal 300 Kamaz trucks and other equipment [word indistinct] and was built by an Afghan construction enterprise on 25 hectares of land. This enterprise, which is built of concrete and has a drainage system, cost 450,000,000 afghanis from the development budget of the government. It was built with the assistance of Soviet experts.

The operation of this enterprise is a major step in developing government transport and in providing more facilities for the transportation of goods in our country.

IRNA: Opposition Attacks USSR-DRA Forces

LD220034 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Mashhad, Khorassan Pr., Dec. 21, IRNA — The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries killed 504 Soviet and Afghan troops in a series of attacks upon eight joint bases of Soviet and Afghan forces in the Balkh province during the past two weeks.

They also captured 17 others and demolished 33 tanks and personnel carriers as well as 15 trucks and one munitions cache. A helicopter was also downed during these operations.

During the operations which were carried out in a region near the joint Soviet-Afghan borders, the Muslim revolutionaries seized 35 Kalashnikov machine guns, 2 anti-aircraft guns and four crates of ammunition.

The Muslim mujahidin sustained the martyrdom of eight combatants during these operations.

Execution of 8 Students in Kabul Noted

LD220040 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Eight Muslim Afghan students have been executed in Kabul. After the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries stepped up their activities, the regime ruling Afghanistan executed eight Muslim Afghan students who had been arrested for cooperating with Muslim revolutionaries, who enjoy the support of that country's Muslim people. This was done to create fear and prevent the Muslim people from helping the revolutionaries.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, today's Pakistani publications printed this item. They added that 22 others, who were arrested for the same reason and who are in jail in Kabul, are awaiting the verdict of the court of the regime ruling Afghanistan.

Rebels Repel Soviet, DRA Troops' Offensive

LD261306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Extensive acts of aggression by the Soviet forces and the Afghan Government troops against the positions of Muslim revolutionaries in Paktia and Konarha provinces were successfully repelled. According to reports, while repelling this invasion, the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries killed or wounded several occupying troops and members of Karmal's army. They also captured several troops.

The invasion was staged with the participation of thousands of joint Soviet and Afghan Government troops with artillery and rocket-launcher support.

According to the same reports, during an attack by the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries last Sunday on a government garrison in Konarha Province, 400 government and Soviet troops were killed or wounded.

AFP: 'Grip' on Kabul Tightened During Anniversary

HK261438 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 26 (AFP) — Soviet and Afghan Government forces have tightened their grip on Kabul in anticipation of guerrilla attacks during this week's 5th anniversary of the Soviet intervention, a Western diplomatic source said today.

The source also quoted unconfirmed reports that 24 civilians, mainly women and children, may have been burned alive in Soviet reprisals on a village south of Kabul, between mid-November and mid-December.

A guerrilla chief, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar [name as received], added that the Red Army had lost some "50,000 dead" in Afghanistan during the last five years, and that "one million" Afghans had been killed since the revolution in April 1978.

According to the Western diplomatic source, night patrols had been doubled in Kabul, Soviet military police deployed outside the Soviet Embassy and Afghan Defence Ministry, and reconnaissance flights had been reported over guerrilla areas as the anniversary of the arrival of Soviet troops on December 25 and 26 1979 approached.

Air raids on villages round the capital had also increased, forcing villagers to spend their days in the fields, but the source cited only one such raid, south of Kabul on December 17.

The strategic highway between Kabul and the Soviet border was also closed for four days last week after guerrilla ambushes, the source said. On December 8, guerrillas had captured three Soviet advisors near Charikar, north of Kabul.

Since the start of December, clashes in the Shomali Plain and Panjsher Valley near Kabul had killed an estimated 436 Afghan and 17 Soviet soldiers, the source said, without giving further details.

The 24 civilians were reported to have been burned alive in a Soviet reprisal raid on a village near Mohammad Agha about 100 kms (60 miles) south of Kabul, which may be called Gomaran, the source added.

Between 150 and 200 Soviet soldiers arrived there two days after a guerrilla raid in which Soviet troops died, and when the 24 remaining people — women, children and two old men — refused to leave a building, it was set on fire. No Afghan resistance group here was today able to confirm the report.

Few details were meanwhile emerging of two major Soviet and Afghan Government offensives in eastern Afghanistan, reported by resistance sources as involving several thousand men apparently trying to seal the Pakistani border.

The Western source had no details, but added that Marshal Sergey Sokolov, appointed Soviet defence minister on December 22, was believed to have visited Kabul at the end of November when Afghan Defence Minister Abdul Qadar resigned.

According to the source, Marshal Sokolov had had overall responsibility for Soviet operations in Afghanistan for several years.

According to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a leading guerrilla leader and chief of the fundamentalist Moslem party Hezbi Islami, the Soviet war effort was costing between 30 and 35 million dollars a day.

Half the total was spent on intelligence and infiltration operations, he told a news conference for the 5th anniversary of the Soviet intervention.

Saying he spoke for the main resistance alliance of which he is vice-president, he added that nine million Afghans had become refugees, half of them inside the country.

A total of 280,000 Soviet troops were involved in the war, 50,000 of them stationed in the Soviet Union, he said.

At the same time 7,000 tanks and armoured vehicles had been destroyed, and 380 planes and helicopters shot down or destroyed on the ground.

He did not detail losses by the mujahidin guerrillas, but said they comprised 300,000 "well armed and seasoned" fighters.

Opposition Groups Hold Tehran Press Conference

LD261904 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA — Representatives of mujahidin groups fighting for the liberation of Afghanistan, said in a press conference here today that Moscow had invaded their country mainly with the idea of preventing a burgeoning Islamic revolution there.

They said the intermittent changes in the ruling governments in Kabul after the coming to power of Nur Mohammad Taraki in 1978 up to the present regime of Babrak Karmal all indicate the incapacity of the Soviets of administering the affairs of the country.

The Afghans who took part in the interview were representatives of the Nasr (Victory) organisation, the United Islamic Revolution Front, the Islamic Jihad Guards, the Hizbe Islami Party and Jami'at Islami Party.

They said the Soviet forces themselves do not believe in the justice of their own act and are strangers to Islam and incapable of apprehending the driving power of faith among the mujahidin.

They also said Afghanistan has been occupied by the Soviet forces as a result of an implicit agreement between the two superpowers.

Manila Authorities Remand Sikh for Questioning

HK270710 Hong Kong AFP in English 0610 GMT 27 Dec 84

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 27 (AFP) — Jasbir Singh, nephew of the late Sikh leader Jaranail Singh Bhindranwale, arrived here early today from Manila accompanied by Indian Security officials, domestic news agencies said.

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) said he would be interrogated in connection with the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who was gunned down by two of her Sikh guards on October 31.

Mr Singh, 22, who holds an Indian passport, has flown to the east Indian city of Calcutta early today aboard a special Indian Airlines Boeing plane, UNI said. Mr Singh was then flown to New Delhi.

The plane, which carried senior Indian interior officials, policemen and detectives, was sent to Manila after Philippine authorities agreed to hand him over, well informed sources close to the government here said.

Mr Singh unsuccessfully sought political asylum in Britain after arriving on December 14 from Pakistan, where he had taken part in the annual celebration marking the birthday of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikh faith.

He then unsuccessfully tried to enter Thailand and Dubai, before going to Manila, were he was denied entry and held by immigration officials, reports from Manila said.

Mr Singh was quoted yesterday in Manila as saying "it will be certain death for me if I would be sent to India." It was not known what charges Mr Singh would face.

Mr Bhindranwale led the violent Sikh campaign for autonomy in India's northern Punjab state, where Sikhs form a majority of the population.

The violence reached a climax with the Indian Army's June attack on the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar to dislodge Sikh militants inside. More than 650 people were killed in the assault.

Voting Begins in 2d Round of Lok Sabha Elections

BK270401 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 27 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Polling has begun in the 116 constituencies spread over 6 states and 2 union territories in the second phase of the elections to the eighth Lok Sabha. An electorate of over 9 crore and 60 lakhs is choosing their representatives from about 1,260 candidates. The statewise breakup of seats involved in today's polls is Andhra Pradesh, 40; Madya Pradesh, 13; Maharashtra, 22; Uttar Pradesh, 33; Manipur, 2; Jammu and Kashmir 2; Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 1; and Goa Daman and Diu, 2. Besides these constituencies, polling in 29 assembly [word indistinct] and 10 Lok Sabha constituencies in Uttar Pradesh is also being held today. These constituencies were partially covered in the first phase last Monday.

Election Commission Views Alleged Irregularities

BK270445 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 27 Dec 84

[Text] The Election Commission has called for an urgent meeting of the returning officer, the concerned divisional commissioner, and the police officer to discuss the complaint regarding alleged booth capturing and other malpractices in the [Bhalpath] constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi, the secretary to the commission, Mr K. Ganesan, said that the question of ordering repolling in the affected areas would be decided today.

Meanwhile, the commission is awaiting a report from the observer who rushed to Meerut for an enquiry into the complaint. The complaint was lodged by Mr Raj Narayan, contesting from the constituency, and the Congress-I candidate, Mr Maheshchand Sharma. They complained that there was large scale booth capturing in 286 polling stations out of 970. The commission had already ordered repolling in 3 polling stations in the constituency on the recommendation of the returning officer.

Mr Ganesan said that the commission will make a thorough enquiry into the alleged large-scale deletion of names from the voters' list. He said such complaints have come from a few metropolitan cities, including Delhi and Bangalore. Mr Ganesan pointed out that adequate opportunities were given to voters to check with the list. Each recognized party was also given true copies of the list to enable them to point out any deletion. The secretary, however, gave an assurance that if there is any deliberate exclusion of voters' names, the responsibility will be fixed and action taken against those found guilty. Mr Ganesan also disclosed that the election commission has directed the returning officer of Allahabad parliamentary constituency to permit the DMKP [Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party] candidate, Mr H.N. Bahuguna, to inspect the presiding officer's diary. He said Mr Bahuguna had alleged that there had been large-scale booth capturing in Allahabad north and Allahabad south.

Revote Ordered in Bihar, Kashmir Constituencies

BK261624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Repoll has been ordered by the Election Commission in 135 polling stations in Bihar and 30 in Jammu and Kashmir. It will be held tomorrow. Giving this information to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, the secretary to the commission, Dr R.P. Bhalla, said 22 more reports from Bihar are under examination and a decision will be taken later tonight in these cases also. The 135 polling stations in Bihar where repoll will be held tomorrow are spread over 22 Lok Sabha constituencies. In Jammu and Kashmir, 23 polling stations in the Anantnag constituency and 7 polling booths in Srinagar will have repoll tomorrow.

About Baghpat constituency in Uttar Pradesh, Dr Bhalla said the central observer has gone to Meerut to check the records connected with the polling which took place on Monday. The action was taken following complaints of booth capturing made by the Congress-I party and Mr Raj Narain, a candidate. Mr Raj Narain, and the Congress-I candidate, Mr Mahesh Chand

Sharma, along with their supporters came to the Election Commission office and complained about large-scale booth capturing in 286 polling booths out of 970 in the whole constituency. The commission yesterday ordered repoll in three polling stations on the recommendation of the returning officer and the local observer.

Dr Bhalla also disclosed that the commission has agreed to issue orders for sealing the hospital and police records pertaining to the death of an independent candidate in the Rae Bareli constituency. The request was made by the Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party. The party also complained to the commission that the returning officer should have known about the death of the candidate prior to the start of poll on Monday.

Dr Bhalla said that Mrs Maneka Gandhi, a candidate in Amethi constituency, has complained that outsiders had forcibly entered the polling stations and voted. She demanded that the counting of votes should not be taken up in the constituency.

Mr K. Ganesan, who is also a secretary to the commission, told newsmen that the law and machienry [as heard] in Gwalior constituency of Madhya Pradesh has been further strengthened on a request made by the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] representatives. They also demanded protection to Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee. Mr Ganesan said the returning officer has reported that full protection will be provided to the BJP leader.

The Congress-I legal cell has requested the chief election commissioner to order a repoll in the Baghpat parliamentary constituency. It alleged that large-scale rigging through booth capturing had taken place in the elections in the constituency on Monday. The Congress-J, Janata Party, and the DMKP have demanded a repoll in the Mahendergarh parliamentary constituency in Haryana. In a joint memorandum to the Election Commission they complained that their polling agents were not allowed at many places in the constituency.

Zia To Announce Election Date After Meetings

BK261658 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The federal Cabinet, which met in Rawalpindi today, discussed matters regarding future elections. Various aspects of the elections were discussed. The president will exchange views with the chief election commissioner on these issues and will announce the exact date for elections at an appropriate time. After that, the chief election commissioner will announce the election schedule.

Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today about the decisions of the Cabinet, an official spokesman said that the Cabinet has expressed its view about the election dates. Actually, the Cabinet considered various dates and also exchanged views on questions as to which elections should be held first and which later, whether the elections should be conducted simultaneously or on separate dates, and if they should be held one after another.

In reply to a question, he said the president will not have to consult the Cabinet again for announcing the date for elections. The spokesman said the president will not announce the dates next week. The spokesman clarified that in light of the Cabinet discussions, the convenience of the Election Commission must be kept in mind in removing any obstacles, in ensuring that the polling officials and the voters do not face any difficulty, and that the election program is appropriately publicized. In reply to a question, the spokesman said that the main work that needs to be accomplished before the elections is the printing of ballot papers, nomination papers, and other related materials. He said at least 45 days will be required to complete this work, but this period can be extended to ensure that there is no defect or flaw in the scheme. The period can also be curtailed if the ballot papers are ready quickly.

The spokesman said President Mohammad Ziaul Haq will meet the chief election commissioner to discuss the elections. It has to be seen how much time the Election Commission will require to print the ballots, which will also include the symbols and names of the candidates. Ballot printing will begin only after the finalization of the names of candidates.

The spokesman reiterated that no change has been made in the time limit for conducting general elections, and the election process will be completed before 23 March next year in accordance with the president's announcement on 12 August 1983.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said the president will himself announce whether the elections will be held on a party or nonparty basis. The Cabinet has already made a decision in this regard.

About constitutional amendments, the spokesman said they will be considered when amendments to the constitution are made. He said the Cabinet reviewed the referendum on 19 December and expressed satisfaction at its success. The Cabinet thanked and commended the chief election commissioner, the Election Commission, and other organizations which made arrangements for the referendum. The Cabinet also thanked all people who participated in the referendum. It might be recalled that no major law and order problem took place and the referendum was held in a peaceful atmosphere. The Cabinet appreciated the performance of all law enforcement agencies. The Cabinet specifically thanked the people for their massive participation in the referendum. The spokesman said many experiences have been gained from the referendum, which has actually indentified the deficiencies and obstacles that have to be removed for future elections.

The Cabinet congratulated the president on receiving the nation's mandate to accelerate the process of Islamization in the country and to implement the 12 August program. The Cabinet observed that the nation's endorsement and support indicate the people's confidence in the leadership of the president, and reflect their full support for his policies regarding the Islamic system and the election program. The president is therefore shouldering a heavy responsibility. The Cabinet extended its good wishes to the president for his success in the future.

The spokesman said the Cabinet felt that the foreign mass media did not disseminate detailed news about the referendum and did not report the actual position of the referendum and the people's zeal and enthusiasm in this regard. He said that foreign media correspondents did not visit the rural areas where polling was massive, totaling almost 100 percent in certain places.

AFP: Opposition Leader Under House Arrest

HK261556 Hong Kong AFP in English 1548 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 26 (AFP) — Pakistani authorities put an opposition leader under house arrest near Peshawar today, but freed three others who had been arrested before a protest following last week's referendum which confirmed President Mohammed Ziaul Haq in power.

Placed under house arrest was Khan Aboul Wali Khan, principal leader of the opposition in the Northwest Frontier Province, reliable sources said. His wife was confined with him.

In Karachi, at the other end of the country, opposition leaders Ghulam Mustapha Jatoi, Khwaja Khairuddin and Sher Baz Mazari were released. They had been detained Monday, the eve of the protest demonstration there.

Rallies sponsored by the 11-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) were also held in Lahore and other cities yesterday.

Two prominent opposition figures remain in the Karachi central prison, socialist leaders Iqbal Haider and Fatehyab Ali Khan.

The detentions are aimed at crippling the opposition's new attempt at anti-government protest following last Wednesday's referendum, against which it had tried to organize a boycott.

The opposition alliance has called for a big demonstration January 4 on the mall, the main street of Lahore.

3 Said Released

BK261423 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] In Pakistan, police have released three opposition leaders arrested in the crackdown on the opposition [which] began 2 days ago. The opposition sources said police today withdrew armed guards from the homes of Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, leader of the Pakistan People's Party in Sind; former president of National Democratic Party, Mr Sher Baz Mazari; and secretary general of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy, Mr Khwaja Khairuddin. Mr Jatoi and Mr Khairuddin were put on the house arrest [words indistinct] to prevent them from attending an antigovernment rally at the mausoleum of Mohammad Ali Jinnah on his birth anniversary yesterday. The release followed an appeal yesterday from President Zia for cooperation from his political opponents, opposition sources said.

Rahim Khan on Country's Defense Capability

BK231136 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] The secretary general of defense, Retired Major General Rahim Khan, has said Pakistan has the resources, capability, and determination to repulse aggression from any quarter. In an interview with a Rawalpindi weekly, he also referred to Pakistan's nuclear installations and said the defense arrangements made for their protection were effective and reliable. He recalled the foreign minister's statement that any attack on Pakistan's nuclear installations would be taken as an attack on Pakistan. He said if Pakistan was attacked, all possible defense would be provided.

Referring to the repeated violations of Pakistan's airspace by Afghan military aircraft, the secretary general said Pakistan had the capability of downing the intruding aircraft but it was exercising restraint because it did not want to aggravate the situation.

More Nuclear Plants Can Be Built in Case of Attack

BK240815 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Pakistan's top nuclear scientist says his country could build more nuclear (?power) plants if the one located near Islamabad was destroyed. Speaking in Lahore, he said Pakistan's capability to build more plants probably serves as a guarantee against an attack by any foreign power on the plant near Islamabad. Pakistan says it can enrich uranium, the first step toward construction of an atomic bomb, but it has always assured that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only.

State Bank Releases Report on Nation's Economy

BK231139 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] According to the annual State Bank report, the economic growth in the country continued to register as upward trend though at a slow pace during 1983-84. The report about the state of the economy of the country during 1983-84 was released in Karachi today. It says the growth rate of the gross domestic product in real terms decelerated considerably, primarily due to a shortfall in agricultural production resulting from natural causes. The report says that because of the sharply reduced growth in net factor incomes from abroad, the rate of growth of gross national product was close to that of gross domestic product, but the increase in real gross national product was still higher than the rate of population growth.

The bank report says the balance of payments position, which had eased considerably last year, came under pressure and the increase in export receipts slowed down. Import payment was significantly higher. The rate of monetary expansion was contained to less than half the rate last year.

The rate of growth of real gross domestic product at 1969 prices which remained over 6 percent since 1979-80, went up to 6.1 percent in 1982-83. However, it was 4.5 percent during 1983-84. Gross national savings at current prices recorded an increase of 1.3 percent.

Gross total investment at current prices registered a rise of 12 percent during 1983-84 compared to an increase of 15.7 percent in the preceding year. The gross fixed investment revealed that the growth rate of private fixed investment was still higher than that of public investment. It was 20.1 percent in 1983-84.

Referring to the Islamization of the banking and financial systems, the report said this process had been accelerated so as to complete the contemplated transformation by June next year.

BANGLADESH

President Addresses Meeting in Khulna

BK261732 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has reiterated his government's firm commitment to establish a sound democratic system in the country. Addressing a huge public meeting at Dakok in Khulna, he listed various steps taken so far by his government for smooth and peaceful transition to democracy.

He regretted that despite his sincere efforts for peaceful transition to democracy, some opposition political parties took a negative attitude on one pretext or other.

About the latest announcement of holding parliamentary polls, President Ershad asserted that this time, elections have to be held for the sake of democracy.

SRI LANKA

Decision To Drop Conference Proposals Announced

BK261327 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] The all-party conference proposals have been dropped. The decision to do so was taken by the Cabinet of ministers at their week's meeting this morning. This was announced by Cabinet spokesman and Minister of State Dr Anandatissa de Alwis when he briefed the media after the Cabinet meeting. An official statement making the announcement said that (?summary) proposals which represented the views of the majority of the delegations of the all-party conference were placed before the Cabinet of ministers on Wednesday, December 19th, for discussion.

The statement added that the Tamil United Liberation Front, which until 21 December discussed the details of the systems of government and decentralization of authority outlined in the proposals with the government delegation, had publicly proclaimed on 25 December that no purpose would serve by discussing them further. The Cabinet has, therefore, decided that no useful purpose could be achieved in discussing the [words indistinct]. The government, therefore, will not implement these proposals. The statement concluded by saying that the Cabinet requested the president to continue his efforts to find a political solution while taking all measures to eradicate terrorism.

Labor Minister Seneviratne Dies at Age 66

BK270241 Colombo Overseas Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 27 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The labor minister of Sri Lanka, Capt C.P.J. Seneviratne, passed away yesterday at Colombo General Hospital. He was 66 years old.

India's 'Saber Rattling' Policy Criticized

BK231413 Colombo SUN in English 13 Dec 84 p 7

[Editorial: "Big Brother"]

[Text] Are these the sounds of sabre rattling that we hear from far away New Delhi?

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in a strongly worded note has demanded the immediate end to killing and destruction of property. No one can voice objection to that if only he had addressed that ultimatum to the terrorist leaders and eelamists now residing in Madras and other pockets of Tamil Nadu instead of to the sovereign state of Sri Lanka.

Rajiv Gandhi we know is battling to hang on to what he believes to be the legitimate heritage of the Nehru — the Gadi of Hindustan [throne of India]; and the Tamil Nadu vote, he feels is crucial to his success. We have no quarrel with that either: but when he denigrates this country by accusing our government of indiscriminate killing — then we must object and object most vehemently.

So long as India harbours and nourishes the terrorists of eelam so long will 'normal life and the means of livelihood of common people be disrupted' in the northern and eastern provinces of Lanka; even as 'normal life and the means of livelihood of the common people of Punjab were disrupted' when Delhi's army moved to flush out the Khalistanists from the Golden Temple in Amritsar and its environs.

Surely Rajiv Gandhi, Parathasarathy and Rasgotra and their minions know that. Then why this swashbuckling at the very moment that General Walters visits us? Is it to warn America to keep off? Or is it merely to parade Delhi's dare-deviling and show the voters of Tamil Nadu that India is ready and willing to take on the world's mightiest power in a bid to pacify and keep its Tamil voters quiet? Rajiv Gandhi talks of innocent Indian fishermen. If they were innocent what were they doing in our waters? Poaching? If then, didn't Iceland do the same in the cod war?

'High handed actions' he calls them. It is a pity that whoever drafted India's infamous note to Sri Lanka either didn't know or chose to forget India's high-handed actions against Bangladesh, Bhutan and Kashmir.

The very fact that TULF leaders are entertained at the South bloc gives the lie to India's pious claims that it will not interfere in Sri Lanka's internal politics.

Rajiv Gandhi may have belatedly realised that he has over stepped the bounds and so winds off his nefarious note with an appeal to the Government of Sri Lanka. That is better.

All this warns us and warns us forcefully that it's all well and good to cultivate India's goodwill but we must be forever prepared to, if necessary, fight for our country's integrity.

As Cromwell once said "Have trust in God but keep your powder dry".

DPRK Vice Premier Arrives in Tehran 24 Dec

LD240935 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24, IRNA — The foreign affairs minister and vice premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kim Yong-nam, arrived in Tehran at the head of a delegation this morning and was greeted at the airport by Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, other officials of the ministry and the staff of the DPRK Embassy in Tehran. The visit is taking place at the invitation of Velayati.

Speaking to IRNA upon his arrival at the airport, Kim Yong-nam said that the trip was a step towards further strengthening and expanding mutual relations.

He further added that the Islamic Revolution of Iran which became victorious under the wise leadership of Imam Khomeyni, has changed the situation in the region and it has been effective in strengthening ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and DPRK.

Both nations for a long time have been interested in expansion of mutual relations and this was materialised after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution of Iran. Following the victory of the revolution, he added, friendly relations between the two countries have expanded rapidly.

The DPRK's foreign affairs minister and the accompanying delegation, during their stay in Tehran will hold talks with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran on issues related to mutual relations and international issues.

Talks With Velayati

LD241837 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The DPRK minister of foreign affairs, who come to Iran this morning at the head of a delegation at the invitation of the minister of foreign affairs of our country, this afternoon started his first round of talks with 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs.

In this meeting, while expressing his happiness at visiting the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Korean minister of foreign affairs referred to his visit to the Behesht-e Zahra [cemetery] and said: By visiting the tombs of the martyrs I aquired a new spirit, and I will never forget this visit. The graves of the martyrs, especially of the unknown martyrs, demonstrate the unshakable determination of the Iranian nation to achieve final victory under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni.

He then referred to the good and strong relations existing between the DPRK and the Islamic Republic of Iran and added: Relations between the two countries are based upon the relations in the hearts of the two nations, and we are certain that under all circumstances these sincere relations will be continued and will be further strengthened.

He also referred to American interference in the Korean peninsula and said: Each day the problems of the Korean peninsula are increased, and the situation becomes more tense. The reason behind all these difficulties is our joint enemy -- the great satan, the criminal America. We will continue our struggle to achieve the reunification of our divided country despite all the difficulties. We hope that we will achieve the greatest aspiration of the Korean people, which is the reunification of the country.

Then, welcoming the Korean delegation, Velayati said: The Islamic Republic of Iran and the DPRK are two Third World countries, both of which are nonaligned and both of which have a long history of anti-imperialist struggles. After the Iraqi invasion of Iran, your country took the side of the Islamic Republic of Iran, namely the rightful side. In view of the importance we attach to our relations with you, after the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran we opened our embassy in Pyongyang and we expanded our political, economic, and industrial relations. We attach great importance to your visit and we hope that we will have constructive discussions in the interests of both nations.

Discussions With Musavi

LD261650 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran Dec. 26, IRNA — Iran's prime minister and North Korean foreign minister called for closer bilateral ties and greater cooperation with Third World and nonaligned countries when they met here Wednesday.

In the meeting, Kim Yong-nam, the foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, expressed the hope that friendly ties between the two countries would expand.

He said his country wished for the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran against Imperialism.

On the Nonaligned Movement Kim Yong-nam said "we believe its members should solve their disputes with regards to the principles of the movement and thus strengthen the movement".

Iran's Premier Hoseyn Musavi said the Islamic Republic is firm in its policy of "cutting off the hands of the United States from the region".

"Today the United States feels the powerful presence of the Islamic Revolution in the region and is angered by it," he said.

Iran recognizes the importance of the Nonaligned Movement in its foreign policy and believes countries that implement policies of the superpowers in the movement should be pushed aside and principles of nonalignment strengthened, he said.

The prime minister said the Islamic Republic of Iran wished for the expansion of economic and political ties with the Third World.

Meeting With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD261642 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran Dec. 26, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani met Wednesday Foreign Minister of the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea Kim Yong-nam and discussed bilateral and international relations.

In the meeting, the Korean official emphasised the necessity of strengthening bilateral ties and expressed the hope that the two countries would continue to stand side by side in their struggle against world imperialism.

Rafsanjani said bilateral ties were very good and that Iranian Government and people acknowledged the Korean Government and leader Kim Il-song as a friend. He expressed gratitude for the support the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has extended to Iran in the imposed Iraqi war.

The "similar situation that Iran and Korea have in their struggle against imperialism deems it necessary for bilateral ties to become deeper and more stable," Rafsanjani said. "Struggle against imperialism is a long an difficult path demanding resistance and cooperation," the Majlis speaker added.

Meanwhile, the public relations office of the (Parliament) said Palestinian Ambassador in Tehran Salah al-Zawawi met Rafsanjani on Wednesday, but made no mention of the topic discussed.

Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Begins Visit
LD250851 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec 25, IRNA — The foreign affairs minister of Sierra Leone, Dr Sheka H. Kanu, arrived in Tehran early this morning at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati. He was greeted at the Tehran Mehrabad International Airport by the deputy foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and the ministry's director general for Arab and African countries, Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani.

Speaking to IRNA at the airport, Dr Kanu said that during his visit talks will be held with the Iranian officials on mutual economic relations. Negotiations will include renewal of the agreement for import of Iranian oil which has expired on Nov 30. Meanwhile, he added, ways of further expansion of mutual economic and industrial relations will be discussed.

The Sierra Leone foreign minister said that during 1983 volume of trade between the two countries was about 10 million dollars. He added that his country enjoyed abundant minerals resources including bauxite, gold and diamond and more than 30 percent of exports of the country was gold and diamond.

Dr Kanu also told IRNA that the trip aimed at following up the discussions held with Velayati in the course of the recent conference of the foreign affairs ministers from the Islamic Conference Organisation, held in Sanaa.

Deputy foreign affairs minister, Besharati, commenting on the visit said that due to common views of both countries in economic, cultural and political fields, following the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Sierra Leone foreign ministers and other officials have visited Iran.

According to Besharati, during the visit, Dr Kanu will meet with various Iranian officials, including a visit with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi scheduled for this morning.

Besharati, referring to the point that more than 60 percent of the population of Sierra Leone are Muslims, hoped that the negotiations will be productive.

Velayati Receives Kanu
LD251408 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA — The visiting foreign affairs minister of Sierra Leone, Dr. Sheka H. Kanu, in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here this morning discussed mutual political, cultural and economic relations as well as issues related to the Third World countries.

On the situation in Africa, Dr. Kanu said that colonial powers in the past exploited the African nations and the Muslims in particular. However, with the Muslims' awakening, he stressed, they are playing greater roles in political and economic fields.

On relations of Sierra Leone with the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said that his government and nation considered Iran as a close friend and enjoyed good relations.

Velayati also, referring to the history of colonialism in the Third World and Africa in particular, said that world dominating powers had now adopted new methods of exploitation. For instance, he added, at present the big powers by keeping price of raw materials and natural resources, the main export items of the Third World countries, artificially low and raising price of industrial goods, had imposed a new kind of exploitation on Third World countries.

Velayati further added that the people of African countries should be vigilant and not allow imperialist domination to return to their country in a different form.

Talks With Iranian Leaders
LD251941 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA — In his meeting with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today, the visiting foreign minister of Sierra Leone, Sheka Kanu, said that his country backs Iran politically and diplomatically, especially in relation with the imposed war. He also praised the Iranians for having safeguarded their Islamic identity in their encounter with foreign cultures and expressed hope that the Islamic Revolution would pave the way for the liberation of the entire Third World from the claws of the world arrogance.

In response, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed appreciation for Sheka Kanu's sympathetic sentiments towards the Islamic Republic and expressed hope that in a later visit to Tehran he would witness the triumph of the Iranian combatants over the Baghdad government and see closing of ranks between the Iranian and Iraqi Muslim people.

He said also that the African Continent is geographically an ideal part of the world in which to witness the fall of the world arrogance and that a united Africa is capable of bringing the world arrogance to its knees in that continent.

The hojjat ol-eslam said the foreign enemies of the Islamic Republic had embroiled Iran in an unwanted war with the idea first of preoccupying Iran at home and thereby prevent it from a continued struggle against the world arrogance. He expressed hope that the Islamic Republic would shortly bring the war to a triumph end whereupon it may provide its various resources to the Third World countries.

Meanwhile in another meeting with Prime Minister Musavi here today, the prime minister told the foreign minister of Sierra Leone that the Islamic Republic would fight on until it has done away with aggression. He said because Iran's Muslim people were treading a rightful course in their dealing with the ruling government in Baghdad they were confident about their eventual triumph.

Foreign Minister Velayati was also present in the meeting.

President Khamene'i Receives Kanu

LD261446 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this morning received Mr Sheka Kanu, foreign minister of Sierra Leone. In this meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, the foreign minister of Sierra Leone presented the written message of Mr Stevens, president of Sierra Leone, to our country's president. The message stated:

Our country has always been hopeful of expanding relations and cooperation between the two countries. The cooperation of Iran and Sierra Leone is a matter of pride to us since Iran has played an important role in instructing and informing the Muslims of our country on Islam.

He stressed: We praise the role of Islamic Iran in its consistent support and assistance to the Third World countries.

President Khamene'i, expressing thanks for the kind message of the Sierra Leone president, stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran sympathizes and feels close to African countries and, because of this very reason, our relations with Sierra Leone and other African countries are not merely a political issue but also one of mutual sympathy. Referring to the positive and clear stance of Sierra Leone over the question of the imposed war of Iraq against Iran, Mr Khamene'i stated: The least of our expectations from our friends in this war is that they should know exactly what the targets of the aggression of Iraq toward Iran have been and that they should share our expressions of disgust toward this aggression and the aggressors. In this meeting, President Khamene'i stressed expanding and strengthening relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sierra Leone.

Foreign Minister Leaves Tehran

LD261103 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA — The Sierra Leone minister of foreign affairs, Dr. Sheka H. Kanu, left Tehran this mroning following a two-day visit and talks with the Iranian officials. He was seen off at the Tehran Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, deputy foreign affairs minister,'Ali Mohammad Besharati and other officials of the ministry.

Dr. Kanu told IRNA prior to his departure, that in his negotiations with the Iranian officials including President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and Velayati, he discussed ways of further expansion of mutual cooperation and economic, political and cultural relations.

He further told IRNA that Sierra Leone has vast mineral resources and could cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in this field.

He added that following talks with the Iranian officials, Iran agreed to supply some 70 percent of the Sierra Leone's oil needs. The agreement will be concluded in a month's time. The previous agreement expired recently. He invited Velayati to visit Sierra Leone.

A joint communique is to be issued soon.

Joint Communique Issued

LD261922 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Joint Communique on visit of Sierra Leonean delegation led by Foreign Minister Sheka Kanu to Iran issued in Tehran 26 December]

[Text] In order to strengthen solidarity and expand existing relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Sierra Leone and to discuss and exchange views in connection with bilateral relations and international problems;and in view of the importance of expanding and deepening the progressive policies of the two countries in solving the problems of Third World countries through strengthening the close political, economic, and cultural links and by bringing closer the two countries' united stances in various international organizations and studying the results of the recent session of the conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic countries and the Tehran conference of the OAU [as heard], a delegation led by Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Mr Sheka Kanu visited the Islamic Republic of Iran from 24 to 26 December 1984 at the invitation of Brother Dr Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs.

During its stay in Tehran the delegation was received by Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The delegation also had fruitful meetings with Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati on important problems of interest to the two countries. Important issues of the Middle East and Africa and joint areas for expanding political relations were the subjects of discussions and study. Also, the necessity of continuing cooperation between the two countries with regard to pretroleum products was among the subjects of these discussions.

During the meeting with Dr Honardust, the international affairs undersecretary of the Oil Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, fruitful talks took place with regard to continuing the two countries' petroleum cooperation.

1. The two sides, expressing pleasure at the role of reconvening the recent, successful OAU conference, held for the purpose of neutralizing the various plots of foreign forces aimed at sowing dissension among the members of the organization, were delighted with the results obtained from that conference as a starting point for a serious solution of Africa's multifarious problems, and called on all the organization's member-countries to strongly adhere to its approved points and resolutions in order to solve such acute problems as that of the Sahara and Namibia in accordance with international laws, and in a manner whereby the peoples of the said areas would be able to achieve the right of self-determination.

2. The two sides condemned the bombing of civilian areas and the use of chemical bombs during the Iran-Iraq war, which blantly violates humanitarian and Islamic principles, international laws,and the recent resolution approved by the session of the Islamic Conference, and emphasized the need to end the policy of continuing attacks on commercial and oil shipping in the Persian Gulf, aimed at internationalizing the war and possibly opening the door to the superpowers in the region.

3. The two sides emphasized the need to isolate Israel in all international forums because of its aggressive policies in Lebanon and occupied Palestine and to continue the boycott of and the severing of political and economic relations with Israel, and deemed it as essential to bring pressure to bear on those who have relations with Israel in accordance with the accords of the recent conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic Countries in Sanaa.

4. The two sides, while emphasizing the Islamic nature of the Palestinian problem, rejected any solution that does not entail the just rights of the Muslim nation of Palestine and that approves of the continued occupation of the lands of Palestine, and called for the solidarity of Islamic nations and governments in confronting the Zionist regime until the total liberation of the occupied lands.

5. The two sides condemned the racist policies of South Africa and also that regime's crimes and acts of aggression with regard to the deprived nations of Africa, particularly the frontline countries, and called for an alliance of African people toward waging the struggle against imperialist-Zionist aggressions and those of the racist regime of South Africa.

6. The two sides, while emphasizing the strengthening and continuation of the policies of nonalignment of the Nonaligned Movement, deemed essential the need for cooperation and solidarity by the member-countries in preventing the influence of the big, hegemonistic powers, which directly harm the aspirations and lofty aims of the movement.

7. The two sides condemned the superpowers' intervention in various parts of the world, which is contrary to the interests of the Third World and endangers world peace and international security.

8. The two sides emphasized the need to improve relations between the Third World countries for the purpose of obtaining complete political, cultural and economic independence,and referred to it as the sole path for attaining self-sufficiency andgenuine independence as well as for safeguarding and exploiting the riches of these countries for the benefit of these countries.

9. The two sides expressed their deep anxiety over the situation in Afghanistan and reemphasized the need for an unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the occupation forces from that country so that the Muslim nation of Afghanistan would be able to decide its own destiny.

The Sierra Leonean delegation expressed its appreciation for the warm, friendly welcome accorded to it and expressed the hope that such contacts would continue toward serving the interests of both sides.

Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Sheka Kanu invited his opposite number, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, to visit Sierra Leone. He promised to pay a visit to Sierra Leone in the near future.

[Signed] Dr Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr Sheka Kanu, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Rajavi Group Denies Links to Tehran Bombing

NC261053 Paris AFP in English 1048 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Paris, Dec 26 (AFP) — The Paris-based People's Mojahedin, the most prominent Iranian opposition group, today said it had nothing to do with a carbomb explosion in Tehran yesterday which killed four people and injured about 50.

The denial was issued following an anonymous phone call last night to the AFP bureau in Tehran by a man who claimed responsibility for the explosion on behalf of the People's Mojahedin.

A Paris spokesman for the leftist Islamic group hinted that the bomb might be the work of Iranian Government agents aiming to "tarnish the rightful resistance" of the Iranian people.

The People's Mojahedin "continue to strongly condemn such crimes, whoever is responsible", the spokesman said.

He said acts of resistance were "solely directed against those in power and those directly involved in torture and executions".

The People's Mojahedin movement was banned by the Iranian authorities in 1981. Its leader Mas'ud Rajavi lives in exile near Paris.

Opposition Paper on Tehran Explosion 18 Dec

GF261430 London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Dec 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Tehran — The Islamic Republican Party office in south Tehran was blown up on Tuesday [18 December] and a number of Hezbollahis were killed or wounded. The explosion totally destroyed the four-story building which is located at the end of Simetri Avenue.

About 24 hours before the Tehran explosion, the headquarters of Shiraz's No 7 committee was blown up. This explosion also left a number dead or wounded. Following these explosions Ayatollah [title as published] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker, went to Jamaran for secret discussions with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

As of publication time, no details on the explosions were available. No organization has assumed responsibility for these explosions. There is also no confirmation concerning the death of a well-known clergyman in the Shiraz explosion. There is a possibility that Iraqi elements are responsible for both explosions. The Tehran blast was similar to a recent one near the railway station which killed over 30 people.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,953

LD261639 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA — Artillery fire was traded between Iran's Muslim combatants and the Iraqi forces in many of the battlefronts in western and southern regions on Tuesday. The Iranian forces inflicted material damages and human casualties upon the Iraqi troops in the southern fronts.

A military communique published here today by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and numbered 1,953 said that artillery fire raged heavier in the western fronts and especially in Nahr-e Anbar and Talayeh throughout Tuesday.

In an area overlooking Dehloran the Iranian forces spotted motor column of enemy troops and set ablaze many of their tanks, and other vehicles. In Chazzabah Iran's Muslim combatants ambushed a patrol unit of the enemy forces repelling all of them from the area.

Elsewhere in Fakkeh an area of enemy positions and their emplacements were set ablaze the Iraqi troops sustaining material damage and human casualties.

In the southern fronts on Tuesday the Iranian forces opened fire on Iraqi positions disrupting logistic and supply operations of the enemy forces and inflicting damages upon them. In battlefronts near the Arvand River on Tuesday the Iranian troops shelled Iraqi positions across the river checking their engineering operations and killing and wounding some of them and also wrecking two mortar launchers of the Iraqi troops. Meanwhile four houses were damaged in Abadan on Tuesday as the Iraqi forces shelled the city from across the border.

Tehran Arabic on ICO Conference Results

GF250620 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Dec 84

[From "Behind the News" program]

[Text] The ICO was far from adopting a position toward the war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The ICO was satisfied with calling on the two sides of the war to end the fighting and to adhere to the rules and to Islamic law. The resolutions also called on the two sides to accept the good offices committee — being an Islamic mediator designed to solve the dispute. Moreover, the ICO resolutions included a denunciation of the use of chemical weapons in the said war. The resolutions also called on the two sides of the war to adhere to the Geneva convention banning the use of chemical weapons in war.

The efforts exerted by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the conference were effective in getting the said resolutions passed since these resolutions indirectly condemn the ruling regime in Iraq, this being the side that used the chemical weapons in the war and thus violated the Geneva convention banning the use of chemical weapons in warfare. Thus, Iraq is the first one to be concerned with abiding by these resolutions.

As for the issue of ending the war or of implenting a cease-fire, the resolutions of the conference referred to the fact that the good-offices committee is in charge of following up this issue. The resolutions urged the two sides of the war to accept the good-offices committee as a mediator in solving this dispute.

Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, gave a press conference at the conclusion of the conference in Sanaa. He reiterated the constant and defined position of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the aggressive war. He said: Despite the positive aspects of the current session of the conference of Islamic foreign ministers — as compared to the resolutions of the previous session that was held in Morocco — Iran has reservation about the mediation because this principle is not in accord with Islamic justice, which demands punishment for the aggressor. Dr Velayati also pointed out that the ruling regime in Iraq demonstrated during the stages of its aggressive war that it neither respects principles nor abides by any resolutions or international laws. It demonstrated that it understands only the logic of power. Therefore the war launched by this regime will last so long as it remains in power.

Dr Velayati's statement served to rule out any possibility of misunderstanding or tendentious interpretations which were being circulated by certain news media on the possibility of direct talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ruling regime of Iraq with regard to the war. Velayati replied to constant questions on this subject. He said: It is wrong to even consider the possibility of direct talks with a regime such as the one currently existing in Iraq.

It seems that this very stringent position of the Islamic Republic of Iran — as explained by Dr Velayati — inspired concern on the part of the ruling regime in Iraq, particularly the concern of its crusader foreign minister, Tariq Hanna 'Aziz, whom the ruling regime of Iraq dared to send to the Islamic conference in Sanaa on the presumption that he represents the Muslim people in Iraq at the aforementioned conference. The reaction of the rulers of Iraq was clear in the message that Tariq Hanna 'Aziz addressed to some of the officials and ministers participating in the Islamic conference in Sanaa.

At any rate, the fact that must be grasped by the concerned sides in the ICO with regard to the war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran can be defined basically as follows: It is necessary to punish the aggressor, the side that was responsible for kindling the war and for sowing sedition among the Muslims. This view is compatible with the spirit of the rules and of Islamic law, which the resolutions of the conference recommended the two sides of the war abide by. Undoubtedly, the ruling regime in Iraq is far from abiding by the rules and the principles of the Islamic Shari'a. This fact needs no evidence. The facts about the ruling regime in Iraq are the best evidence of that.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Occupation of DRA
LD261755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Statement issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran; date not given]

[Text] The anniversay of the occupation of Afghanistan on 27 December 1979 revives the memory of bitter aggression by Soviet forces against the Islamic country of Afghanistan. Five years ago on that day more than 100,000 Soviet troops, armed to the teeth, were sent to Afghanistan to occupy that land. So far the result of that occupation has been the martyrdom of hundreds of thousands of innocent people, the destruction of thousands of villages, and the homelessness of about 4 million innocent people.

Five years after that aggression, the Muslim people of Afghanistan today more than ever before feel the need for a comprehensive struggle under the banner of Islam. The failure of political solutions and an international conference for the solution of the problem of Afghanistan has made it clear to all that to give up the struggle will only benefit arrogant powers and will not lead to the liberation of Afghanistan.

Both the Eastern and Western arrogant powers have now realized that they must pay a heavy price for violating the territory of Islam. In the same way that the Lebanese Muslims taught a good lesson to the American aggressors, the Afghan mojahedin, by sacrificing their lives, property and families, have also taught an unforgettable lesson to the occupiers.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as it has repeatedly announced, regards the unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces and their nonreplacement with any other arrogant power, the granting of the right of sovereignty to the people, and the honorable return of all Afghan refugees to their country as the only proper solution to the issue of Afghanistan.

We hope that the Muslim and struggling people of Afghanistan, through their unity of expression and vigilance, will continue their ceaseless struggle against the conspiracies of the East and the West until final victory, and that they will believe in God's assistance because, "If you assist God, He will assist you and will make your steps firm." [Koranic verse]

Petroleum Minister Leads Delegation to Geneva
LD261143 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Petroleum Minister Gharazi and a delegation left Tehran for Geneva this morning to attend the OPEC oil ministers' meeting. Before leaving Tehran, he said: The success of the OPEC meeting depends on decisiveness from all its members. The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to defend the proposal for controlling and supervising the level of production and fixing the price of oil.